TROWBRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

FORTY-THIRD

Annual Report

For the Year 1917,

BY

R. H. WEIGHT, M.D.

(Deputy Medical Officer of Health.)

TROWBRIDGE

B. LANSDOWN AND SONS, PRINTERS,

SILVER STREET.

TROWBRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

FORTY-THIRD

Annual Report

For the Year 1917,

BY

R. H. WEIGHT, M.D.

(Deputy Medical Officer of Health.)

TROWBRIDGE

B. LANSDOWN AND SONS, PRINTERS,

SILVER STREET.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30195019

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Trowbridge Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,—

For the third time it is my duty to submit to you the Annual Report.

All that I have included is a Summary of such matters concerned with the health of the District as I have considered to be of the greatest interest.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The population of the District at the Census of 1911 was 11,822. The Local Government Board has forwarded two estimates of the population for the year 1917, viz. :—

For calculation of Birth-rate, 12,372.
For calculation of Death-rate, 11,099.

The year 1917 will be notable for two reasons. For the first time the number of Births in the District fell below 200., viz., 176. For the first time the Deaths, 186, exceeded the Births.

The following figures are interesting :—

Year.	Estimated Population.	Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under 1 year.
1875 ..	11,508	394	235	66
1895 ..	11.800	261	171	32
1915 ..	11.654	230	174	20
1917 ..	B 12,372 D. 11,099	176	186	14

In 42 years the number of Births has fallen to less than one-half. The number of Deaths under one year to less than one-quarter.

The number of Deaths which actually occurred in the District in 1917 was 154. The Deaths of 40 persons belonging to the District, but who died outside it, have to be included in the total.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

I regret to say no work was done at the Sewage Disposal Works during the year.

WATER SUPPLY.

There has been no change in the conditions of the Water Supply during the year. The supply is constant.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.

Common Lodging House.—There is one in the District with registered accommodation for 48. It is in satisfactory condition and good order is maintained.

SCHOOLS.

The number of Elementary Schools in the District is 11. Secondary Schools, 2. There are a few small private schools.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

The Sanitary Inspector acted as Inspector of Meat at the Army Abattoir for some weeks towards the end of the year. His work has shown the same thoroughness and carefulness as in previous years, and I again gladly record my personal indebtedness to him, and my belief in the value of his work to the District.

The Isolation Hospital.—Number of beds, 45. Cases admitted 132 ; Deaths, 9. Cases from Trowbridge District, 31 ; Contacts, 4 ; Deaths, 5.

ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The number of cases of the undermentioned diseases notified during 1917 and the previous three years is shown in the following table :—

	1917.	1916.	1915.	1914.
Diphtheria	27	3	1	4
Erysipelas	2	4	2	2
Scarlet Fever	2	8	36	68
Enteric Fever	—	8	3	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	1	3
Measles and German Measles	417	325	—	—

Diphtheria.—Cases of this disease occurred in every month of the year except February and March. They were not confined to any one district, all parts of the town being affected from Wyke Road to Upper Studley. The disease was of a serious type, and seven deaths took place. The disease had shown a satisfactory decline for several years. In 1906, 37 cases ; 1908, 54 ; 1910, 26 ; 1911, 22 ; 1913, 7.

Measles.—The number of cases of this disease was greater than in the previous year, but there were only 4 deaths.

Tuberculosis.—Ten cases of this disease were notified during the year, three being soldiers discharged from the Army who had previously lived in the District. Ten deaths were attributed to some form of Tubercular disease.

FOOD.

There has been careful supervision of the Food Supply of the District.

The experience of another year has still further convinced me that Centralised Slaughtering can alone secure proper control and inspection of meat food supply to the public.

One seizure of unsound meat took place during the year, followed by a prosecution and a fine of five pounds and costs.

Other food condemned and destroyed was as follows :— Beast : Two fores, 2 loins, 3 heads, 19 livers, 5 lungs, 5 stomachs, 4 spleens, 2 briskets. Sheep : Two carcases, 1 leg, 23 livers. Pigs : Six carcases, 8 lungs, 1 head. Calves : Six carcases, 4 livers. Fish : Sixteen coalfish. Bread, 171 lbs.

Milk.—The Milk Supply has been generally satisfactory.

There are 25 Cowkeepers, 10 Purveyors (5 Cowkeepers), 4 Dairies. Number of Cows in the District, about 426.

There are 10 Slaughterhouses—9 registered and 1 licensed. There are 12 Bakehouses.

HOUSING.

The number of houses for which plans were passed was 2, houses completed, 1 working class.

Houses nearing completion, working class, 0.

Three cases of overcrowding were dealt with—2, Coburg Court, 10, Court Street, 7, Havelock Street.

The shortage of working class houses makes action in cases of overcrowding difficult.

Adequate sanitary houses are the root of all Sanitary progress. "Child Welfare" Schemes and "Health Visitors" are a mere farce to damp, insanitary houses, with perhaps six, eight, or more persons sleeping in two small, ill-ventilated rooms, and one unflushed closet to serve 2, 3, or even 4 such houses.

It is satisfactory to know that large house-building schemes are foreshadowed for "after the war"—houses that are to be suitable and sanitary, to be owned and administered by Public Authorities. The health of a considerable part of the community ought not to be largely dependent upon the willingness of private owners to make, and keep, their property in proper sanitary condition. It must be remembered that the health, good or bad, of even a small number of the inhabitants of a district soon reacts upon the health of the whole.

I look forward to great things from the Ministry of Health—when established.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

The following figures from Statistics laboriously compiled by the Sanitary Inspector are informing :—

Number of houses in the District	3,080
All houses up to £16 rateable value inspected ..	/2,885
Houses owned by the occupiers (£16)	170
" Back-to-back " houses	50

No. of Houses.	Day rooms.	Bed rooms.	Occupants.
124	1	1	196
186	1	2	545
83	1	3 or more	352
4	2	1	6
690	2	2	2,130
1,087	2 & less	3 or less	3,229
459	2	3 or more	1,912
34	3	2	99
1,305	3 or more	3 or more	4,765
2,885	—	—	10,005

CLOSETS.

About 60 per cent. of the Closets in the District are hand-flushed, and 19 per cent. of the houses have to share a closet with other houses.

The following table shows the number of Closets to houses in parts of the District :—

No. of houses.	Closets to houses.
40	1 to 5
32	1 ,, 4
105	1 ,, 3
47	2 ,, 5
370	1 ,, 2

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

The revised Register is as follows :—Factories, 38 ; workshops 114 ; domestic workshops, 20.

Particulars as to inspection will be found in the Report of the Inspector of Nuisances.

Lists of out-workers received, 7 ; number of out-workers, 24. The chief industries are rag-stripping and brush-making. No returns from " gloving " this year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

At the Census of 1911 the population of the District was 11,882.

The estimated population for 1917 :—Birth-rate, 12,372 ; Death-rate, 11,099.

Births registered during the year, 176 (males 95, females 81), equal to a rate of 14.3 per 1,000 of the population, by far the lowest birth-rate in the history of the district,

Deaths registered during the year, 186 (males, 84 ; females, 102), equal to a rate of 16.7 per 1,000 of the population. The number of deaths which actually took place in the District was 154 (death-rate 13.8). From this number 8 deaths of persons who did not belong to the District have to be subtracted., but 40 persons belonging to the District died outside it, bringing up the total to 186, giving a death-rate of 16.7. See Table I.

Of the total deaths, 186, 86 were of persons over 65 years of age, 26 over 80, 7 over 90 years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of deaths of children under one year (see Table IV.) was :—

	1917.	1916.	1915.	1914.	1913.
Number	14	15	20	16	31
Rate per 1,000 Births	79.5	71.2	86.9	67.7	109.5

COMPARISON OF DEATH-RATES AND BIRTH-RATES.

Annual Death-rate per 1,000 living 1917.		Rate per 1,000 births. Total deaths under 1 year.	Birth-rate per 1,000 population.
England and Wales ..	14.4	97	17.8
96 Great Towns (over 50,000)	14.6	104	18.1
148 Smaller Towns (over 20,000)	13.2	93	18.0
London	15.0	103	17.5
Trowbridge Urban District	16.7	79	14.3

RAINFALL.

Dr. Tayler has again supplied particulars of the Rainfall from observations made at Lovemead House :—

	1917.	1916.	1915.	1914.
January	1.30	1.33	4.23	0.55
February	.89	4.61	5.95	2.89
March	3.05	3.71	1.12	4.49
April	1.69	1.13	1.04	1.47
May	2.68	1.75	3.46	1.49
June	5.32	2.40	1.02	1.76
July	2.85	.82	4.13	3.41
August	6.13	5.29	2.05	2.36
September	1.53	1.43	1.82	1.29
October	5.03	5.23	4.29	2.84
November	.76	3.44	1.93	3.65
December	.78	3.44	5.57	6.83
	32.01	34.58	36.61	33.03

Appended are the Local Government Board Tables of Statistics I. to IV., and the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROWLAND H. WEIGHT, M.D.,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

April, 1918.

Sanitary Inspector's Office,
Market House Chambers,
Trowbridge,
April, 1918.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE TROWBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,—

I have the honour to submit my fourth Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1917.

In addition to the ordinary duties I was called upon to undertake work in connection with the Food Regulations and the Inspection of Meat at the Army Abattoir, whilst again rendering assistance in Sanitary essentials to the Military.

The effects of the War still continue to place Public Health work at a great disadvantage, and only strenuous effort maintains the present standard. Twenty-four new drains were tested and passed ; 2 old drains received necessary attention ; 5 statutory and 228 informal notices were served in connection with nuisances, all statutory and most of the informal notices being complied with.

The Statistics are as follows :—

Registers :—

Food-preparing Places	23
Factories and Workshops	172
Outworkers	24
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	34
Petroleum and Carbide Stores	20
Slaughterhouses	10
Offensive Trades	3
Lodging House	1

Infectious Disease (Patients Removed to Hospital) :—

Scarlet Fever	2
Diphtheria	25
Enteric Fever	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1

Isolated at Home :—

Measles and German Measles	417
Diphtheria	2

Disinfection :—

Houses	62
Bedding, etc.	45

Inspections :—

Houses due to Infectious Disease	415
Houses—various Causes	332
Houses—Outworkers'	48
S.aughterhouses	792
Offensive Trades	170
Lodging Houses	51
Factories and Workshops	277
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	188
Petroleum and Carbide Stores	17
Stables, Pig-styes, and Poultry Pens	336
Schools	78
Yards and Courts	641
Dining Rooms and Food-preparing Places	109
	3,454

Visits :—

Abatements of Nuisances, etc.	1,483
Re Food Regulations	227

Nuisances—Houses, Etc.

Defective Drains	27
,, Gullies	9
,, w.c. Pans	11
,, Roofs, Walls, Windows, Yards, etc.	105
,, Cesspool	1
,, Flushing Cisterns	5
,, Vent Shafts	1
Improper Use of Street Gullies	6
Dirty Houses	27
,, w.c. Pans	27
Overcrowding	2
Schools	13
Urinals	1
Accumulation of Refuse	18
Stables, Animals, and Birds	27
	280

Food-preparing Places :—

Insanitary Condition	1
Choked Drain	1
	2

Factories and Workshops :—

Marine Stores	1
Latrines	2
Defective w.c. Pans	1
Dirty w.c. Pans	20
Limewashing	3
Tub Closet	1
No Sanitary Conveniences for Sexes	1
No Abstract Conveniences	1
Gas Plants	3
	33

Slaughterhouses :—

Retention of Offal	19
Limewashing	3
Insanitary Condition	13
	35

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops :—

Retention of Manure	20
Limewashing	6
Cesspool overflowing	1
Improper Storage	2
	29

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT HUGH MATHER, M.R.,San.I

TABLE I.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1917 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Estimated population.	Births.			Total Deaths registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
			Nett.						Under 1 year.		At all Ages.	
		Uncorrected number.	Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	Of non-residents registered in the district.	Of residents not registered in the district.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1912	11,853	222	223	18·8	130	10·8	1	22	15	67·5	151	12·7
1913	11,882	283	283	23·8	162	13·7	3	13	31	109·5	172	14·4
1914	11,921	236	236	19·8	146	12·2	2	16	16	67·7	160	13·4
1915	11,654	233	230	19·7	165	14·1	7	16	20	86·9	174	14·9
1916	11,181	211	212	17·4	161	14·3	5	16	15	71·2	172	15·3
1917	* 11,099 † 12 372	176	176	14·3	154	13·8	3	40	14	79·5	186	**16·7**

* Deaths † Births

1911 Census — Total population at all ages, 11,822.
Total families or separate occupiers, 3,097
Area of district in acres, 2,126.

TABLE II.

Notifiable Disease	*Number of Cases Notified.*								*Total cases removed to Hospital.*
	At all ages.	*At ages—years.*							
		Under 1.	*1 and under 5 years.*	*5 and under 15 years.*	*15 and under 25 years.*	*25 and under 45 years.*	*45 and under 65 years.*	*65 and upwards*	
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera and plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria including Membranous croup	26	—	1	20	3	2	—	—	24
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Scarlet fever	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Typhus fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing and Continued fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro spinal Meningitis	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	8	—	—	1	1	5	1	—	—
Tuberculosis—other forms	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Measles and German Measles ...	417	11	149	169	61	23	4	—	—
Totals	461	13	150	194	66	30	6	1	27

TABLE III.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1917.

TROWBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
All causes { Certified ...	184	14	8	2	13	7	14	41	85	14
{ Uncertified ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup ...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Influenza	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease ...	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Organic heart disease ...	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	11	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of respiratory organs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis & Bright's Disease	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including premature birth	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent deaths, excluding suicide	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Suicide	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other defined diseases ...	67	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	186	14								14

TABLE IV.

INFANT MORTALITY.

1917. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

TROWBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes { Certified	3	...	4	1	8	1	2	2	1	14
All causes { Uncertified ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chickenpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Convulsions	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	3
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congential Malformations ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	2	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	3
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	1	1	1	1	3	...	...	...	...	3
Other Causes	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	2
Totals	3	1	4	1	8	1	2	2	1	14

Nett Births in the year { legitimate 165. / illegitimate 11.